

[1 March, 2007]

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cases in the year 2005 and 2 cases in 2006, thereby showing a mixed trend.

(b) and (c) The amount involved in frauds in the cyber crime cases registered in CBI during the last two years is Rs. 8,13,35,400/-.

(d) The information Technology act 2000 together with the Indian Penal Code, 1860 provides legal framework for countering cyber crimes.

The Government has introduced the Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2006 in the Parliament which *inter alia* provides for:

- (i) New Forms of crimes, like publishing of material containing sexually explicit act in electronic form, video voyeurism, breach of confidentiality and leakage of data by service providers, e-commerce frauds through impersonation commonly known as phishing, identity theft and offensive messages through communication service.
- (ii) to impose duties and liabilities upon service providers including Internet Service Providers (ISP), and Intermediaries.

The Government has also conducted several awareness and training programmes on cyber laws and cyber crimes for Judicial Officers and Law Enforcement Agencies.

Reduction of ADC levy by TRAI

300. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is considering reducing Access Deficit Charge (ADC) levy;

(b) if so, to what extent reduction in ADC would benefit consumers;

(c) whether Government are aware that many telecom companies have charged roaming (both international and domestic deposits from customers;

(d) whether TRAI would consider the reimbursement of these deposits back to consumers'; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) In October, 2003 Regulation, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had stated that review of ADC would be done annually. Subsequent to implementation of October, 2003 Regulation, *w.e.f.* 1st February, 2004, the Authority has been reviewing the ADC regime on an annual basis. The ADC framework established by TRAI stipulates that it is a depleting regime.

(b) According to TRAI, since no new decision after 23rd February, 2006 has been taken on ADC, no assessment regarding benefit to consumers can be made.

(c) to (e) As per the tariff framework presently in vogue, it is permissible for telecom operators to levy refundable security deposits from roaming customers..

New Post Offices in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh

301. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices set up in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, State-wise and district-wise;

(b) how far such Post Offices are functioning from each village;

(c) whether there is any shortage of Post Offices in each of the above States;

(d) whether any demand has been received for setting up more Post Offices; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) The number of Post Offices set up in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, State-wise and district-wise are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) Post Offices are opened in the villages on fulfilling distance norms of 3 km. prescribed by the Department. However in some cases